



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

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343 King's Highway East

February, 1963

HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL LAUNCH 250th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION ON FEB. 19; EMINENT HISTORIAN TO SPEAK ON EARLY SPIRIT OF HADDONFIELD

This is the year of the 250th anniversary of the Settlement of Haddonfield, New Jersey. Although Elizabeth Haddon had come to this vicinity in 1701, history records that in the year 1713 she built and occupied her house within the present borough limits.

The formal opening event in this commemorative year which will be studied with celebrations illuminating the history of Haddonfield is the meeting of the Historical Society scheduled for Tuesday, February 19 (instead of the usual fourth Tuesday of the month).

A distinguished program has been arranged featuring the internationally-known historian, writer and lecturer on New Jersey, John T. Cunningham. He has taken as the subject for his talk a line from a poem written by James L. Penny-packer in 1913, "Where the Neighbor-Spirit Reigns."

Mr. Cunningham will talk "about Haddonfield and her history, about Elizabeth and the need for towns to keep the neighbor spirit if they are to survive."

No one is more adept at "humanizing" history than Mr. Cunningham. He has been deeply in love with this State all his life and has written about her in the

regional best selling book, "This is New Jersey," in hundreds of articles for newspapers, and in January, 1960, he turned 45 pages of the National Geographic Magazine into a delightfully written and handsomely illustrated feature article titled, "I'm From New Jersey."

Another highlight of the program will be a presentation by Mr. William W. Reynolds, Superintendent of Schools, outlining the various Anniversary activities planned for the months ahead. Also, as chairman of the New Jersey Tercentenary Committee, Mr. Reynolds will give a preview of Haddonfield's participation in the state celebration.

The public is cordially invited to this opening commemorative meeting. Refreshments will be served. There is no admission charge.

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, February 19

TIME: 8 P. M.

**PLACE: Haddonfield High School
Auditorium.**

ELIZABETH HADDON'S FIRST HOME

By ELMER GARFIELD VAN NAME

(*Mr. Van Name is a member of the Historical Society of Haddonfield and a Trustee of the Camden County Historical Society*)

Archeology in Haddonfield? In our own back yard? An attempt to discover the site of Elizabeth Haddon's original home along Cooper Creek would offer an exciting challenge!

"This house stood on the brow of a hill," according to Judge Clement, "on the south side of Cooper's creek, at Cole's landing" (about two miles from the Haddonfield of 1877) "in a commanding situation, and near that stream."

Elizabeth Haddon came to America about 1701 and first occupied the house as a single woman, for she wed John Estaugh "1 day, 8 mo., 1702," at her residence on the 500 acre plantation her father, John, had bought from Thomas, son of John Willis, deceased, in 1698. Elizabeth (Clement continues) probably enlarged and improved the house for her convenience and comfort, "and to receive her friends in a proper manner; for it is known that she never turned the stranger away from her door, or suffered her acquaintances to look for entertainment elsewhere." She and her husband lived in the property until 1713, when they moved to their new brick home.

Although the Thomas Sharp map of 1700 shows a house on the plantation, a remarkable factor not generally realized is that the house was probably there in 1686 or earlier, built very likely by Willis. In the possession of the Society is the original (or what certainly appears to be the original) drawing of the John Willis survey of 1686, made by Thomas Sharp, showing the location of the house. (This drawing ought to be useful in any exploration of the area. A photostatic copy thereof was very kindly furnished to me by John D. F. Morgan, Esq.). Clement records that additional buildings had been erected before Sharp

made his map of 1700. At some period a road came into use, known as Cole's Landing Road. The dwelling was located along this road west of the Sorrel Horse Road (now Grove Street).

Although the English were not generally builders of log cabins, it is likely that the house was built of wood in some form. It is not known how big the house was, whether it had a cellar or stone foundation, or whether it had a wooden or a dirt floor.

The very first use of the name, Haddonfield, was applied to this Haddon plantation, "according to the custom of the times." There was no village called Haddonfield until later.

If permission could be obtained from the owner of the land, a field study by competent professionals might unearth underground remains of foundation walls; sifting of the dirt might discover coins, crockery, implements and utensils, or charred wood from the fireplace and the like. Such artifacts might not only constitute tokens reminiscent of the habitation of Elizabeth and John Estaugh, but also furnish clues respecting those who may have occupied the old place before or after them.

ALL SCHOOLS JOIN IN PAGEANT DEPICTING LOCAL HISTORY

The present generation of Haddonfield school children will have the rare opportunity of learning about the history of their community by re-enacting it when they participate in a colorful 4-night program the first week of June commemorating the 250th anniversary of Haddonfield.

The pageant will be held at 8:30 P. M., Monday and Tuesday, June 3 and 4, and Thursday and Friday, June 6 and

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**FIRST COMPLETE BOOK ON HADDONFIELD HISTORY NOW
OFFERED AT PRE-PUBLICATION PRICE**

"This is Haddonfield," the first compilation of all the known historical data on this early New Jersey town, is now on the press, the painstaking work of more than thirty persons, all specialists in his or her historical field.

This long-awaited, handsomely printed, hard-cover book, containing 72 illustrations, many of them original drawings, is being offered at a special pre-publication price of \$6.50 until March 1 when the increased regular price will go into effect.

"This is Haddonfield" covers as background material the early history of the State and the early settlers. The history of Elizabeth Haddon discloses a great many facts about her not generally known. Haddonfield in the Revolutionary War and the Civil War is an important part of the book. A large section is devoted to the old houses of Haddonfield with a picture of each one. Of particular interest is the detailed information on all the early outstanding people in the community. Other chapters deal with the image of Haddonfield as depicted by early sources, and the modern history of the town including its form of government and organizations.

Of great value will be the thorough index which will include every name in the book so that it may be used as a reference source for family history. One cannot think of a more welcome gift than this book to a member of one's family or to Haddonfield friends.

The Society wishes to thank Mrs. Jesse G. Haydock, Chairman of the History Committee, Editor of "This is Haddonfield," mother and inspiration of the entire project and all those on and off the Committee who assisted her in this great and valuable undertaking. Please send your check to History Book Committee, Historical Society of Haddonfield, % Haddonfield National Bank, Box 150, Haddonfield, N. J.

PLEASE SEND COPIES OF "THIS IS HADDONFIELD"

NAME

ADDRESS I ENCLOSE

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7. Rain dates are Wednesday, June 5 and Saturday, June 8. The program will be held outdoors in the school stadium.

Mr. Harry K. Smith, noted commentator on WRCV, Channel 3, and a graduate of Haddonfield Memorial High School, will narrate the entire pageant using the script written by Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Joslin.

General Chairman of the pageant is Mrs. Donald Leeds Clement.

Complete details of the program will appear in the May Bulletin.

**OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY
FOR 1962-1963**

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THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING HADDONFIELD'S "OLDEST HOUSE"

As reported in the Bulletin of November, 1962, the Historical Society was able to purchase Haddonfield's oldest house thanks to the contributions of members and non-members and a loan of \$2000 from a local bank. The problem remains of raising the money to repay the loan.

This Spring every Haddonfield family will be asked to contribute one dollar for this purpose and the question may reasonably be asked, "Why should I aid in preserving this old house?"

As one travels through the old towns and cities of America, one is struck by the great asset that the preservation and restoration of historic homes and buildings have proved to their birthplace. There is hardly an American city which dates back to Colonial times that is not now undergoing a multimillion dollar program to rehabilitate and preserve the earliest homes. Our city of Philadelphia is a shining example, now heralded across the land for rescuing almost 2000 colonial homes and buildings from degradation and wreckage.

The preservation of the historic interest and quality of a town has many rewards for every resident. Aesthetically, because there is a unique architectural charm about colonial homes and buildings which can never be duplicated.

Historically, because they tell more than any other remainder of the past the way people lived and the conditions of the times. Economically, because the foregoing qualities attract discerning people and tend to raise property values.

We have been fortunate in Haddonfield that a number of residents have bought many of the remaining 18th and early 19th century homes and restored them tastefully. But the earliest and most historic of them all, the gambrel-roofed house, referred to as "The Old Hip-roof House," may be completely lost to commercial use or torn down unless every Haddonfield family takes an interest in its preservation.

This was the home that was built c. 1742 and was bought in 1745 by Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh to be occupied by the widow of her nephew, Ebenezer Hopkins, Sarah Lord Hopkins. In its time this house was often visited by Elizabeth Haddon and other notables. Its original location was on King's Highway just west of the Indian King and long after it was moved to Ellis Street it became the home of the most famous cook Haddonfield ever produced — Cook Mary Allen. No wedding or social event took place in Haddonfield for which she did not cater.

The quaint little house, so intimately woven in the fabric of Haddonfield's domestic and ancestral history, is surely worth a small gift from all of us.